

Date: August 22, 2005

**WARNING: Bogus Phone Calls on Jury Service May Lead to Fraud**

In various parts of the United States, including the Northern District of New York, citizens are being targeted by phone calls and threatened with prosecution for failing to comply with state or federal jury service.

In the calls, the threat of a fine and/or the issuance of a warrant for shirking jury service is used to coerce those called into providing confidential data, potentially leading to identity theft and fraud. These calls are not from real court officials.

The U.S. District Court does not require anyone to provide any sensitive information in a telephone call. Most contact between a federal court and a prospective juror will be through the U.S. Mail, and any phone contact by real court officials will not include requests for social security numbers, credit card numbers, or any other sensitive information.

Jury duty is a vital civic responsibility and should be taken seriously by all citizens. It is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official. The federal judiciary takes seriously such an offense.

Persons receiving such a telephone call should not provide the requested information, and should notify the Jury Administration Office of the U.S. District Court at (315) 234-8520. The United States Marshals Office will investigate all potential leads that are received.